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Amendments to Claims:

Please cancel Claims 8-10 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend Claim 6 as set forth below.

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a powdered form of a protein, which comprises:

- (a) mixing a solution of the protein with inulin and tagatose, and
- (b) drying the mixture.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the inulin is derived from Chicory Root.

8-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the drying step comprises lyophilization.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the drying step comprises air drying.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the mixture is cooled as it is being air dried.

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14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the protein is hemoglobin.

15-44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the hemoglobin is pegylated.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the pegylated hemoglobin comprises one or more polyethylene glycol (PEG) molecules with a molecular weight of 200-40,000 daltons.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the PEGs comprise a PEG with a molecular weight of 5,000 daltons.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the hemoglobin is pegylated with 2-8 PEGs.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the hemoglobin is pegylated with 2-4 PEGs.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the hemoglobin is oxygenated.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the hemoglobin is resistant to oxidation.

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52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the hemoglobin is stable at room temperature.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the powdered hemoglobin contains no more than 20% of the met form of hemoglobin.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the powdered hemoglobin contains no more than 10% of the met form of hemoglobin.